

WEEK OF 11.29.09 AT FIRST CHURCH

Sun. 11.29.09	First Sunday of Advent 10 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:15 am - Rehearsal for Children’s Holiday Program
Tues. 12.1.09	7 pm CGMO Working Group
Thurs. 12.3.09	7:30 pm – Adult Choir
Wed. 11.25.09	7:30 pm – Adult Choir

WEEK OF 12.6.09 AT FIRST CHURCH

Sun. 12.6.09	Second Sunday of Advent, Communion Sunday 10 am – Worship and Sunday School 11:15 am – Gallery Reception, Doe Bartlett 11:15 am - Rehearsal for the Children’s Holiday Program 4 pm – Advent Workshop, with soup and Sandwich Supper by Youth Group
Mon. 12.7.09	10 am – Newsletter Deadline
Tues. 12.8.09	7 pm – Diaconate and Worship Working Grp
Thurs. 12.10.09	7:30 pm – Adult Choir

REMINDER

The Building will be closed on November 26th and 27th in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.



YOUTH GROUP DATES

- Over 45 adults and youth attended Rock the Sound from First Church, Bethany Covenant and Berlin Congregational. Aarin Flythe and Julia Allen represented our youth from First Church. It was a great gathering.
- Please remember that all youth are needed to make the Advent workshop a success on December 6. We need to be there by 3:00 pm to set up for the gingerbread houses and make soup and sandwiches.
- Sunday, December 20, 5:30 – 8 pm; Youth Group Christmas Gathering



FIRST CHURCH GALLERY OPENING

Please join us for a Gallery Opening on Sunday, December 6, from 11 am – noon. Please stop in and welcome our December artist, Doe Bartlett.

SOCIAL AND SERVICE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Social and Service Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, December 10 at 6 pm. All are welcome to join us and the chefs will be Joey Belanger and Charlie Mangan. Please bring a \$5.00 grab bag gift. Hope to see you there.



1754 SOCIETY WORKSHOP

There will be a question and answer session after the church service in the Parlor on Sunday, December 13. Committee members will discuss the 1754 Society and how you can become a charter member of this planned giving opportunity to help First Church.



ANNUAL REPORTS

I’m asking for all annual reports, preferably by e-mail, by December 18th, even though it seems early. It gives me about 1 month’s time to get them done, as they have to be handed out to members by January 17th, two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. Thank you!
Kristine Lewko, Office Manger



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

For some time now, we have been discussing our Christmas Eve worship. In recent years, attendance has dropped at both services (traditionally, 5:30 and 11:00 P.M.). And when the early service was no longer the venue for our annual Children’s Christmas Program (now scheduled for Sunday morning worship in Advent), the attraction of the 5:30 service for families with young children waned. So, to energize the quality and participation levels of our Christmas Eve worship experience, and with input from the congregational Christmas Eve Surveys, our professional staff, and our choir, the Diaconate and Worship Working Group decided to “try a new thing” this year and see how it works—one worship service instead of two and a brand new time for the one service—10:00 P.M. We contacted our neighboring UCC churches and found that they host services at 5:00, 7:00, and 11:00. So our new schedule offers a unique alternative worship time. Our hope is that all folks who attended either of our traditional services will attend this one service and thus boost the attendance, enthusiasm, and joy of our Christmas Eve worship experience. We appreciate our collective willingness to “try this new thing” and welcome our collective feedback as we plan for 2010. “O come, all ye faithful” to our 10:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Service of Carols, Candles, and Communion!

THE OSGOOD FOOD PANTRY

Dear Families of First Church - We have been doing great with our food collections and I thank you for that! Can you believe that Christmas is right around the corner? We will be collecting all types of non-perishable foods for Christmas including rice, vegetables(corn, potatoes, string beans, etc.) , macaroni and cheese, soup, stuffing mix, even toiletries like deodorant, toothbrushes, shampoo (these make great stocking stuffers). Thank you for your help! God Bless You !! Amy Belliveau and the Missions Committee



FIVE FOR FIVE HONOR

At the annual meeting of the CT Conference of the United Church of Christ in October, the Conference thanked and honored a number of “Generous Churches of 2008.” We were among only about thirty churches of the Conference to be recognized as a “Five For Five Church.” This honor acknowledges that we contribute to OCWM (Basic Support) as well as the four special mission offerings of the denomination: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors In Need, and the Christmas Fund. Congratulations to us!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

We would like to thank the following people for their help with raking leaves on Sunday . . . Nancy Cook, Judy Robertson, Glenn & Kevin Anderson, Steve Anderson, Jon Baron, John Gemmell, Mike Duncan, Mike Gorzoch, Peter Gacek, Eric Csinsi, Don Robertson (for his moral support and his help with the pizza) and to John Canora, for repairing our sign.
Thanks Again to all of you,
Steve Csinsi and Bill Furman



NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2010

Your newly appointed Nominating Committee is now hard at work for our 2010 Church year. We are looking forward to talking with you and hearing where in the First Church structure you want to be involved. Thank you in advance,
Sharon Chamberlain, Sylvia Lucas, Carolyn McElravy & Maria Simao

Busy, Busy, Busy!

It's that wonderful time of year when we have the opportunity to see family and friends and do so many festive things – including lots of eating! So, just a few reminders about the things we still *need* to do...

- Bring back your UNICEF boxes!
- Be at church school **Nov. 29th** and **Dec. 6th** for the Christmas Program rehearsal!
- Come to the Advent Workshop on **Dec. 6th**, from 4 – 6 p.m. for crafts, food, music and maybe a visit from a *special* guest.
- Thank Sarah Joyce-Griakis for sharing her cooking talents with us during “Food in the Bible” – shame on me!
- Give Thanks **every day** for all that God has given you!

Quite thankfully,

Sharon Chamberlain
Coordinator of Christian Education



A GERMAN ADVENT CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Rev. Frank J. Melesching, Pastor of Saint John's Lutheran Church, 295-303 Arch Street, New Britain; will conduct a service in the German language on Sunday, December 6th, at 3 pm. There will be special music by the choir and hymns for you to sing in German. After the service, you're invited to a reception replete with German Christmas cookies and other special treats. We invite all who have some connection with the language, your friends and relatives, to join us! Herlich Willkommen.



BAD WEATHER

In the case of bad weather, please watch WFSB channel 3 or tune into WTIC am or fm or WRCH fm; for information on church closings or the cancellation of church events. Thank you.



OPEN DATES FOR MEMORIAL FLOWERS

The fourth Sunday of December is available for Memorial Altar flowers. The cost is \$25.00; please contact Kristine if you are interested in signing up for this date, 229-3709. Thank you.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

NEW BRITAIN, CT

NOVEMBER 25, 2009

Dear Friends,

Happy Advent! Happy New Year! Sunday, November 29 is the First Sunday of Advent and the first day of a new liturgical year. For us Christians, the New Year begins not on January 1, but rather on the First Sunday of Advent.

Advent is the season of anticipation and preparation that precedes Christmas, and it begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. The focus of the season includes not only preparation for the anniversary of Christ's birth, but also the anticipation of Christ's return at the close of history. A festal, rather than penitential, emphasis dominates throughout. The seasonal color, purple, announced Christ's royalty.

Let me remind you of and invite you to participate in the special worship opportunities of this very special season—

On November 29, we begin our tradition of Advent Candle Lighting Services at the beginning of every Advent and Christmas worship.

On December 6, we celebrate Advent Communion.

On December 13, we share our Children's Christmas Program, entitled this year, “Simply Longing For A Pageant...” Don't miss it!

On December 20, we participate in a Festival of Lessons and Carols and receive our United Church of Christ Christmas Fund Special Mission Offering.

And on December 24, at 10:00 P.M. (please note the new time!), we join in a traditional Christmas Eve Service of Carols, Candles, and Communion and receive our special Christmas Eve Mission Offering to benefit our local Salvation Army.

It will be a busy and joyous Advent season! Please be a part of it!

See you in church! Blessings always!

Jack

CHURCH ENVELOPES

Pledge envelopes will be available the Sunday after Thanksgiving, December 6th, in the Narthex, or in the church office during the week.

FIRST CHURCH NEWS

Vol. 57, No. 21



“First Church News” (USPS 196-120) is published bi-weekly from September to June and monthly during July and August by First Church of Christ, Congregational, 830 Corbin Avenue, New Britain, CT 06052. (Tel: 860-229-3709; Fax: 860-826-7079, e-mail firstnewbritain@snet.net). Periodicals postage paid at New Britain, CT 06052.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to First Church News, 830 Corbin Avenue, New Britain, CT 06052.

First Church website - www.firstnewbritain.org.

OFFICE and GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am – Noon

PROGRAM STAFF

The Rev. Jack Cook, Senior Minister
Sharon Chamberlain, Coordinator of Christian Education
James Gower, Director of Music Ministries
Sarah Flythe, Coordinator of Youth Programming

Please go to our website, www.firstnewbritain.org for staff contact information

Copies of sermons and additional newsletters are available in the information rack outside the church office.